

R E M A R K S

Claim 10 is amended by this response for purposes of clarity to replace the word "arranged" on line 13 of claim 10, with the phrase "rotatably mounted". Support for this amendment can be found on page 7, lines 4 to 8 of the specification. It is thus respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the Office Action, claims 10-13, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Nakajima US Patent 6,168,216 on the grounds set forth in the Office Action.

The present claimed invention recites a door lock for motor vehicles having a rotary latch (14) and a closing aid (10) which acts on the latter and, with aid of a drive, carries along a door to be closed over a last section into closed position. The drive of the closing aid (10) is separated structurally from the door lock (12) and a flexible drive element (24) is provided for transmitting force from the drive to the rotary latch (14). The flexible drive element undergoes a change in direction with aid of at least one deflection roller (26), wherein the deflection roller (26) is moveable from its normal position into an auxiliary opening position shortening path of the drive element. The deflection roller (26) is rotatably mounted on a toggle lever (38) which is foldable in by actuation of an auxiliary opening device.

The Examiner recites that Nakajima et al. discloses a deflection roller arranged on a toggle lever 87 which is foldable in by

actuation of an auxiliary opening device 96. However, Nakajima et al neither disclose nor suggest having the deflection roller rotatably mounted on the toggle lever as in the present claimed invention. The winch lever 84 of Nakajima et al corresponds to the deflection roller 26 of the present invention and the connecting element 87 corresponds to the toggle lever of the present claimed invention. It is clearly shown in Figures 14 to 18 and described in column 8, lines 17 -48 of Nakajima et al, that the winch lever 84 (deflection roller) is rotatably attached to the support shaft 80 (see lines 25 and 26) and thus is not arranged on or rotatably mounted to the connecting element as in the present claimed invention. In fact, one end side of the winch lever 84 is formed into a fan shape around the support shaft as a center. This is unlike the connection between the deflection roller and the toggle lever in the present claimed invention and discussed on page 7 of the specification wherein the deflection roller is rotatably mounted at the free end of the toggle lever.

Additionally, the support shaft 80 of Nakajima et al has a different function than the toggle lever of the present claimed invention. Nakajima et al neither disclose nor suggest having a toggle lever which is foldable in by actuation of an auxiliary opening device as in the present claimed invention.


As the deflection roller in Nakajima et al (winch lever 84) is rotatably attached to the support shaft 80 and not to the connecting member 87 (toggle lever) as in the present claimed invention, it is respectfully submitted that the present claimed invention is not anticipated by Nakajima et al. As claims 11 -

13, and 17- 18 are dependent upon claim 10 it is respectfully submitted that claims 11 - 13 and 17 - 18 are also not anticipated by Nakajima et al for the same reasons as discussed above regarding claim 10. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that the rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

In the event there are further issues remaining in any respect the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone attorney to reach agreement to expedite issuance of this application.

Since the present claims set forth the present invention patentably and distinctly, and are not taught by the cited art either taken alone or in combination, this amendment is believed to place this case in condition for allowance and the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the matter, enter this amendment, and to allow all of the claims in this case.


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR SECTION 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that the accompanying Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Hon. Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 8, 2003.

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